

REMARKS

The last Office Action of August 28, 2007 has been carefully considered. Reconsideration of the instant application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-17 are pending in the application. Claim 1 has been amended. Claims 18-20 have been added. No claim has been canceled. A total of 20 claims is now on file. An amendment to the specification has been made. No fee is due.

It is noted that the disclosure is objected to because of an informality. Applicant has amended the specification to refer to reference number "13". Withdrawal of the objection to the disclosure is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-3, 10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Pat. No. 6,443,295 to Hill.

Claims 4-9, 11, 14-17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Hill in view of U.S. Pat. No. 4,399,598 to Page et al.

Claims 11, 13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Hill in view of U.S. Pat. No. 5,469,608 to Biancalani.

The rejection under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) and 103(a) is respectfully traversed.

The present invention, as set forth in claim 1, is directed to a rotary support having an elastic connection device on an outer circumference of a hollow-cylindrical body to establish an elastic connection between the hollow-cylindrical body and a surrounding tubular structure. As a result, the connection between the hollow-cylindrical body and the tubular structure is firm and yet easy to disengage. In order to be clear on this point, applicant has amended claim 1 by setting forth the form-fitting engagement attained by the elastic connection device between the hollow-cylindrical body and the tubular structure. Support therefore can be found in paragraph [0036] of the instant specification.

The Hill reference discloses a tubular structure (pulley drum 12) which is closed on axially opposite ends by hollow-cylindrical end plates (14, 16). The plates are hereby attached to the tubular structure by threaded fasteners received

in fastener holes formed in the peripheral surface of the end plates. Formed on the peripheral surface of the end plate is also an annular groove for accepting an o-ring for "*providing a seal between the peripheral surface and the interior surface of the pulley drum*12.". (col. 4, lines 54-57). In contrast to the present invention, which claims the provision of an elastic connection device, e.g. o-ring, to establish a force-fitting engagement between the hollow-cylindrical body and the tubular structure, the o-ring of Hill assumes only sealing function whereas the connection between the hollow-cylindrical body and the tubular structure is effected by the screw fasteners.

For the reasons set forth above, it is applicant's contention that Hill neither teaches nor suggests the features of the present invention, as recited in claim 1.

Claims 2-17 which ultimately depend from claim 1 and therefore contain all the limitations thereof, patentably distinguish over Hill in the same manner as claim 1.

Applicant further presents new claims 18-20 to set forth subject matter that is also neither taught nor suggested by the applied prior art.

Claim 18 sets forth the multi-functionality of the elastic connection device to realize attenuation, centering and torque transmission between the hollow-cylindrical body and the tubular structure. Support therefore can be found in paragraph [0030] of the instant specification.

Claim 19 sets forth the provision of fixing elements for accepting the elastic connection device, with the elastic connection device sized to project slightly radially beyond the fixing elements.

Claim 20 sets forth the particular configuration of the fixing elements and their positional relationship to allow circulation of a coolant. Support therefore can be found in paragraph [0029] of the instant specification.

Withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) and 103(a) and allowance of claims 1-20 are thus respectfully requested.

Applicant has also carefully scrutinized the further cited prior art and finds it without any relevance to the claims on file. It is thus felt that no specific discussion thereof is necessary.

In view of the above presented remarks and amendments, it is respectfully submitted that all claims on file should be considered patentably differentiated over the art and should be allowed.

Reconsideration and allowance of the present application are respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner consider necessary or desirable any formal changes anywhere in the specification, claims and/or drawing, then it is respectfully requested that such changes be made by Examiner's Amendment, if the Examiner feels this would facilitate passage of the case to issuance. If the Examiner feels that it might be helpful in advancing this case by calling the undersigned, applicant would greatly appreciate such a telephone interview.

Respectfully submitted,

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